



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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US National Team Conducts Free Park Authority Soccer Clinic

Josh Blue, winner of NBC's Last Comic Standing, will join his teammates from the U.S. Paralympic Soccer squad for a free soccer clinic for children with disabilities on Sunday, August 5, 2007 at 1 p.m. sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority. (Clinic location to be announced.)

A part of the international Olympic program, the Paralympics are sporting events for elite athletes with physical disabilities. These parallel games follow the same format and are held in the same venues immediately following the able-bodied games. From modest beginnings in 1948 as competition for a handful of World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries, the Paralympic Games have grown, drawing 3,806 athletes from 136 countries to Athens in 2004. Blue, who has cerebral palsy, has been a member of the U.S. Paralympic Soccer team for four years.

In town for a comedy show at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium on August 4th, Blue will be assisted by Jon McCullough, named to the World All-Star Team at the World Championship for Disabled Soccer in Brazil, and Josh McKinney, winner of the Golden Boot at the Dutch Cup for Disabled Soccer. Both are 10 year veterans of the Paralympics. McKinney, a former intern with the Park Authority, and McCullough, a former volunteer with the Park Authority's Adapted Aquatics, were organizers and instructors of the agency's Adapted Soccer classes, which won program awards from the National Association of Counties and the Virginia Recreation and Park Society. Martel Vasquez, a new member of the team, will also be participating, enhancing opportunities for Spanish-speaking children to take part in the clinic.

The U.S. team leaves Monday for the Pan American Games for athletes with physical disabilities so other teammates may also assist with Sunday's clinic, depending upon turnout. The clinic is open to youngsters, 6 to 18, with physical disabilities who are ambulatory.

For more information on the clinic, contact Gary Logue, the Park Authority's Access Coordinator, at 703-324-8727.

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